

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 COME-00 EB-08 /034 R

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-----094923 040356Z /12

R 030319Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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TAGS: ETRD, PFOR

SUBJECT: COMMERCE/STATE DELEGATION RE EXPORT ADMINISTRATION
ACT REGULATIONS

REF: A) ABU DHABI 2420; B) AMMAN 4912; C) ATHENS 7796;

D) CAIRO 13911 E) DAMASCUS 5396; F) KUWAIT 4706 AND 4851;
G) JIDDA 5885; H) MANAMA 1828; I) STATE 197340; J) JIDDA
4431; K) STATE 142390; L) CAIRO 14392

1. EFFORTS ON OUR PART TO RESCHEDULE TRAVEL LATER IN OCTOBER AS SUGGESTED BY JIDDA 5885 AND KUWAIT 4706 AND 4851 HAVE NOT PROVED WORKABLE BECAUSE OF PRIOR COMMITMENTS MADE BY DELEGATION MEMBERS. AT SAME TIME WE APPRECIATE FULLY THE DIFFICULTY WHICH POSTS MAY ENCOUNTER IN ARRANGING OPTIMAL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS WITHIN LIMITATIONS OF EXISTING SCHEDULE (REF I).

2. ALSO, WE BELIEVE DISCUSSIONS HELD SOON AFTER ISSUANCE OF PRELIMINARY REGULATIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN IN THE REGION IS MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE APPROACH TO GAINING UNDERSTANDING OF AND ACCEPTANCE OF NEEDED CHANGES IN BUSINESS PRACTICES THAN WOULD DELAY OF TRAVEL PERHAPS UNTIL SOME TIME IN DECEMBER FOLLOWING END OF HAJ (REF J).

3. ACCORDINGLY, UNLESS ACTION ADDRESSEE POSTS BELIEVE THAT DELEGATION MEETINGS WITH EMBASSY AND, AS AVAILABLE, HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS/BUSINESSMEN NOT WORTHWHILE WITHIN TIME FRAME OF PLANNED ITINERARY, WE PROPOSE TO STICK TO THAT SCHEDULE MAKING BEST OF AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES.

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4. IN CASE OF SAUDI ARABIA, WE WOULD REGRET MISSING CHANCE TO MEET WITH FINANCE MINISTER ABA AL-KHAYL AND DR. AL-TURKI PURSUANT TO EARLIER DISCUSSIONS HELD HERE IN WASHINGTON. IF MEETINGS CANNOT BE SCHEDULED AT THAT TIME, POSSIBILITY REMAINS THAT FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS CAN BE WORKED OUT HERE IN WASHINGTON IN CONNECTION WITH EXPECTED TRAVEL BY ABA AL-KHAYL AND AL-TURKI FOR IMF-IBRD MEETINGS LATE IN SEPTEMBER. IN ANY CASE, WE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH COMMERCE MINISTER OBEID AND OTHER SAUDI OFFICIALS/ REPRESENTATIVES OF BUSINESS COMMUNITY WHO HAVE IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES/INTERESTS WHICH RELATE TO USDOC REGULATIONS. AS TO SCHEDULING OF IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL AND MEETINGS, DELEGATION IS AT YOUR DISPOSAL.

5. WE EXPECT PRELIMINARY REGULATIONS TO BE AVAILABLE IN RELEASABLE FORM ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 20. WE WILL AIR MAIL COPIES IMMEDIATELY ONCE AVAILABLE AND ALSO LOOK FOR INFORMAL COURIERS TO HAND CARRY COPIES TO INTERESTED POSTS. WE EXPECT BASIS FOR DISCUSSION ON U.S. LAW AND REGULATIONS TO FOLLOW OUTLINE OF SUMMARY STATEMENT CONTAINED IN STATE 142390 (REF K). WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE TO PREPARE ARABIC TEXT OF LAW OR REGULATION, GIVEN COM-

PLEXITY OF ISSUES AND AMBIGUITIES OF LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN
BASIC LEGISLATION ITSELF.

6. IF ANALYSIS OF PRELIMINARY REGS SUGGESTS NEED FOR
FURTHER ELABORATION OF KEY ISSUES, WE WILL PROVIDE ALL
POSTS BY CABLE WITH ELABORATION/REVISION OF STATEMENT
CONTAINED REF K.

7. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SCHEDULED MEETINGS IN COURSE
OF PLANNED TRIP AS USEFUL MEANS OF ENCOURAGING FURTHER
ACCOMMODATIONS TO U.S. ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION. IN PART-
ICULAR, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO BE-ABLE TO GIVE EMBASSY

OFFICERS FIRST HAND EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS
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INDICATING THOSE AREAS WHERE CHANGES ARE STILL NEEDED IF
WE ARE TO ENSURE HANDLING OF BOYCOTT ISSUE CONSISTENT WITH
OVERALL U.S. MIDDLE EAST INTERESTS, INCLUDING CONTINUED
EXPANSION OF TRADE AND OTHER MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ECONOMIC
RELATIONSHIPS.

8. FOR AMMAN, CAIRO, KUWAIT AND MANAMA: WELCOME AND CON-
CUR IN YOUR PROPOSED SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS FOR DELEGATION.
FOR STOP IN AMMAN, TWO REPEAT TWO HOTEL ROOMS FOR NIGHT OF
OCTOBER 6 WILL SUFFICE.

9. FOR DAMASCUS: BELIEVE IT USEFUL TO RECONSIDER QUESTION
OF POSSIBLE CONTACT WITH CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE IN LIGHT OF
GENERALLY POSITIVE NON-POLEMIC DISCUSSIONS HELD IN RECENT
WEEKS WITH BOYCOTT OFFICE OFFICIALS BY EMBASSY DAMASCUS

AND A NUMBER OF OTHER POSTS. WE HAVE NOT FORECLOSED POSSI-
BILITY OF ANY MEETINGS WITH BOYCOTT OFFICIALS WHICH POSTS
MIGHT CONSIDER HELPFUL TO OUR EFFORTS TO GAIN BETTER UNDER-
STANDING OF NEW REGULATIONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS IN TERMS
OF BUSINESS PRACTICES WHICH WOULD FACILITATE CONTINUED
EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF OUR
LAW. REMAINDER OF PROPOSED SCHEDULE IS FINE.

10. FOR ATHENS AND LONDON: IT APPEARS UNLIKELY GIVEN
CURRENT SCHEDULE OF TRAVEL THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO ARRANGE
WORKING STOPS IN EITHER LOCATION. WE WOULD WELCOME PARTI-
CIPATION BY RTDO ED KINNEAR IN AMMAN BRIEFING FOR
EMBASSY OFFICERS IF THIS PROVES CONVENIENT FOR HIM. CHRISTOPHER

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